JORGE L. SANCHEZ, ESQ, 1 Nevada Bar No. 10434 SANCHEZ LAW GROUP, LTD. 930 South Fourth Street, Suite 211 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Phone (702) 635-8529 4 Attorneys for Debtors, 5 6 7 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT 8 DISTRICT OF NEVADA 9 10 **CHAPTER 13** In re: 11 Mario Membreno Mendoza and CASE NO: 09-17027-mkn Paula Membreno 12 **DATE:** June 18, 2009 Debtors. TIME: 3:30 p.m. 13 14 15 16 17 MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL, "STRIP OFF" AND MODIFY RIGHTS OF BANK OF AMERICA PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 506(a) and 1322 § 18 19 COMES NOW, Debtors, Mario Membreno Mendoza and Paula Membreno (hereinafter 20 "Debtors"), by and through their attorney, Jorge L. Sanchez, of the law firm of SANCHEZ LAW 21 GROUP, LTD., and move this Court to modify the rights of Bank of America pursuant to 11 U.S.C. 22 § 506(a), and § 1322, and Bankruptcy Rules 3012 and 9014. 23 In support of this Motion, the Debtors assert the following: 24 Debtors filed the instant Chapter 13, Case Number 09-17027-MKN on May 1, 2009. 1. 25 2. On the petition date, Debtors owned real property located at 7359 Topeka Drive, Las 26 Vegas, Nevada 89147 (hereinafter the "Subject Property"). 27 The value of the Subject Property is \$131, 500. (See Zillow.com estimate of property 3. 28

value attached hereto as Exhibit "a").

4. At the time of the filing of Debtors' petition, the Subject property was subject to the following liens:

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage 8480 Stagecoach Circle

8480 Stagecoach Circle Frederick, MD 21701

Bank of America 4161 Piedmont Parkway Greenboro, NC 27410 First Mortgage: \$163,735.00

Second Mortgage: \$52, 374.00

- * Please find "Schedule D of Debtors' Chapter 13 Petition attached hereto as Exhibit "b". As neither mortgage creditor as filed a proof of claim as of the filing of this Motion, and Debtors are required to prosecute the instant Motion prior to confirmation of their Chapter 13 plan, Debtors are relying upon both those balances and addresses reported to credit reporting agencies, as set forth on Debtors' Statements from the respective creditors and as previously recorded by said creditors with the Bankruptcy Court, where applicable, in support of this Motion.
- 5. On the date the instant bankruptcy case was filed, no equity existed in the Subject Property above the claim of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.
- 6. Bank of America's second mortgage claim was wholly unsecured on the petition date and if the Subject Property was sold at auction Bank of America would receive nothing by way of its second mortgage claim.
- 7. Accordingly, Debtors request that this Court find that Bank of America's second mortgage claim is unsecured and should be reclassified as a general unsecured claim to receive pro rata distribution with other general unsecured creditors through the Debtors' Chapter 13 Plan.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

In *In re Zimmer*, 313 F3.3d 1220(9th Cir. 2002), the Court stated that a wholly unsecured lien holder's claim can be modified and reclassified as a general unsecured claim pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 506(a), despite the anti-modification language in § 1322(b)(2). Specifically the Court held:

Section 506(a) divides creditors' claims into "secured . . . claims" and unsecured claims." Although the conventional interpretation of "secured" might include any claim in which the creditor has a security interest in the debtor's property, § 506(a) makes clear that the status of a claim depends on the valuation of the property. An allowed claim of a creditor secured by a lien on

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property in which the estate has an interest . . . is a secured claim to the extent of the value of such creditor's interest in the estate's interest as such property . . . and is an unsecured claim to the extent that the value of such creditor's interest . . . is less than the amount of such allowed claim. Put more simply, a claim such as a mortgage is not a "secured claim" to the extent that it exceeds the value of the property that secures it. Under the Bankruptcy Code, "secured claim" is a term of art and not every claim that is secured by a lien on property will be considered a "secured claim."

Here, it is clear that Bank of America's second mortgage claim for the repayment of its loan is an unsecured claim because its deed of trust is junior to he first deed of trust, and the value of the Subject Property.

Since Bank of America's second mortgage claim is wholly unsecured (in that there is no equity above the first mortgage on the Subject Property), Debtors request this Court reclassify Bank of America's second mortgage claim to a general unsecured claim to receive pro rata distribution with like unsecured creditors.

Further, Debtors request this Court strip Bank of America of its secured rights under State Law since no maintainable security interest in the subject property exists as to Bank of America's second mortgage claim.

Finally, Debtors are not required to file an adversary proceeding to achieve the requested relief herein. Debtors may bring a motion to "strip off" Bank of America's second mortgage lien by motion. See In re Williams, 166 B.R. 615(Bankr.E.D.Va.1994), In re Fuller, 255 B.R. 300(Bankr.W.D.Mich.2000).

Wherefore, Debtors pray this Court:

- 1. "Strip off" and extinguish Bank of America's wholly unsecured second mortgage lien pursuant to 11 U.S.C., Section 506(a);
- Reclassify Bank of America's second mortgage claim as a general unsecured claim 2. to be paid pro rata with other general unsecured creditors through the Debtors' Chapter 13 plan; and

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3. For such other relief the Court finds appropriate. Dated: May 19, 2009 Respectfully Submitted: /s/Jorge L. Sanchez, Esq. /s/ Jorge L. Sanchez, Esq. Attorney for Debtor

Exhibit "A"

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≥ Zillow.com

7359 Topeka Dr

Las Vegas NV 89147

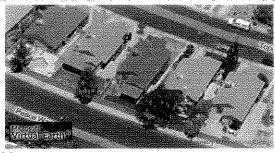
3 beds, 2.0 baths, 1,185 sq ft Zestimate®: \$131,500

Get a free professional estimate

My Estimate:

Monthly Payment: \$ 562 edit ING DIRECT 5/1 ARM-See Rates today!

Bird's Eye View



See a

Home Info

Public Facts:

- Single family
- 3 beds
- 2.0 bath
- 1,185 sqft
- Lot 4,356 sqft
- Built in 1985

Neighborhood: 89147

Nearby Schools:

District:

<u>Clark</u> Primary:

Frank Kim Elementary ...

Middle:

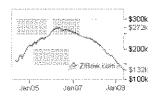
Grant Sawyer Middle ...

High:

Durango High School

See more 89147 local information

Charts & Data



See all charts & data

ZESTIMATE®: \$131,500

Interested in selling this house? Work with an agent from Prudential Americana Group, REALTORS to get a professional estimate.

First Name*

Last Name*

Email Address*

Value Range: \$95,995 - \$138,075 30-day change: -\$2,500 Zestimate updated: 05/18/2009	Phone Number* ext.
Last sale and tax info	Message (optional)
Sold 07/26/2002: \$130,000 2009 Property Tax: \$1,350 : 42 - Car-Dependent	Cr call (888) 321-0667
Street Map 7359 Topeka Drive, Las Vegas, Bird's eve view and larger man fo	

Alternate Addresses

7359, topeka, dr, driv, drive, drv, las vegas, las vega s, las vega so, las vega south, las vegas, las vegasouth, lasvega s, lasvega so, lasvega south, lasvegas, lasvegasouth, nv

Exhibit "B"

B6D (Official Form 6D) (12/07)

In re	Mario	Ε	Membreno,
	Paola	M	embreno

Case No.	09-17027	
Case Ivo.	00-11021	

Debtors

SCHEDULE D - CREDITORS HOLDING SECURED CLAIMS

State the name, mailing address, including zip code, and last four digits of any account number of all entities holding claims secured by property of the debtor as of the date of filing of the petition. The complete account number of any account the debtor has with the creditor is useful to the trustee and the creditor and may be provided if the debtor chooses to do so. List creditors holding all types of secured interests such as judgment liens, garnishments, statutory liens, mortgages, deeds of trust, and other security interests.

List creditors in alphabetical order to the extent practicable. If a minor child is a creditor, the child's initials and the name and address of the child's parent or guardian, such as "A.B., a minor child, by John Doe, guardian." Do not disclose the child's name. See, 11 U.S.C. §112 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1007(m). If all secured creditors will not fit on this page, use the continuation sheet provided.

If any entity other than a spouse in a joint case may be jointly liable on a claim, place an "X" in the column labeled "Codebtor", include the entity on the appropriate schedule of creditors, and complete Schedule H - Codebtors. If a joint petition is filed, state whether the husband, wife, both of them, or the marital community may be liable on each claim by placing an "H", "W", "J", or "C" in the column labeled "Husband, Wife, Joint, or Community".

If the claim is contingent, place an "X" in the column labeled "Contingent". If the claim is unliquidated, place an "X" in the column labeled "Unliquidated". If the claim is disputed, place an "X" in the column labeled "Disputed". (You may need to place an "X" in more than one of these three columns.)

Total the columns labeled "Amount of Claim Without Deducting Value of Collateral" and "Unsecured Portion, if Any" in the boxes labeled "Total(s)" on the last sheet of the completed schedule. Report the total from the column labeled "Amount of Claim" also on the Summary of Schedules and, if the debtor is an individual with primarily consumer debts, report the total from the column labeled "Unsecured Portion" on the Statistical Summary of Certain Liabilities and Related Data.

Check this box if debtor has no creditors holding secured claims to report on this Schedule D. AMOUNT OF Husband, Wife, Joint, or Community CODEBTOR UNLIQUIDATED CONTINGENT CREDITOR'S NAME **CLAIM** DATE CLAIM WAS INCURRED, Н SPUTED UNSECURED AND MAILING ADDRESS WITHOUT NATURE OF LIEN, AND DESCRIPTION AND VALUE W PORTION, IF INCLUDING ZIP CODE, DEDUCTING J ANY AND ACCOUNT NUMBÉR VALUE OF OF PROPERTY С (See instructions above.) COLLATERAL SUBJECT TO LIEN PRIMARY RESIDENCE Account No. 7359 Topeka Drive Las Vegas, NV 89147 Wells Fargo Hm Mortgag **SPRING VALLEY COTTAGES #1A** 8480 Stagecoach Cir PLAT BOOK 30 PAGE 17 Frederick, MD 21701 LOT 26 BLOCK 5 SEC 22 TWP 21 RNG 60 Value \$ 132,500.00 163,735.00 31,235.00 Account No. Value \$ Account No. Value \$ Account No. Value \$ Subtotal 163,735.00 31,235,00 continuation sheets attached (Total of this page) 163,735.00 31,235.00 (Report on Summary of Schedules)